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23 June 1953

Iraq.

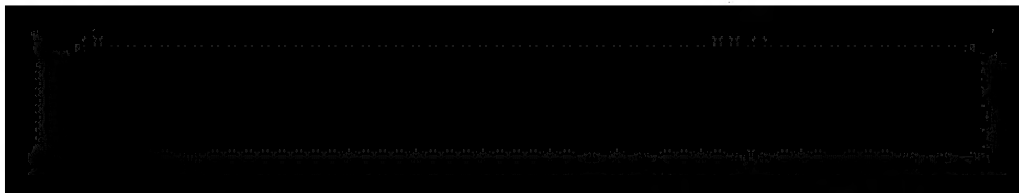
Leading Causes of Death/Influence
on Medical Practices.

Iraq.

May 53.

Sort of Information May 53 and Earlier

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1. The leading cause of death in Iraq is infant diseases, which start at child-birth and continue until the child has reached the age of seven years. Approximately 60% of all deaths in Iraq are caused by these infant diseases. The next leading cause of death in Iraq is malaria, and other infectious or tropical diseases. The fight against malaria in Iraq was started early in 1952, and with the help of the Point Four Program, we expect that within the next five years, we will have been successful in stamping out the causes of this disease.
2. The British have exerted the major influence on Iraqi medical practice, but this is being replaced slowly by medicine as it is being practiced in the US. More than one-hundred doctors of medicine from Iraq during the past four years have had the opportunity of visiting the US and have seen how medicine is practiced there. Many, [redacted], have had the added fortune to do actual Resident Doctor work in hospitals, and it is principally this group of doctors that is responsible for the change in medical practice that is now going on in Iraq.
3. More modern medical equipment and modern drugs are needed, but we feel with the enthusiastic approval of our government which is now apparent, these will be coming soon. Evidence of this change is that blood banks are now being established in the larger cities in Iraq and are taking the place of blood transfusions.
4. We have no Russian hospitals in Iraq; and Russian teachings, personnel, books or periodicals, none of which I am aware of do not in any way influence Iraqi medical practice.

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This unevaluated information for US Officials
Only is supplied for the possible interest of
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